

Historic Preservation and How it Helps YOU

What is historic preservation?

Historic preservation protects places important to our country, state, and community by deterring the destruction or severe alteration of historic properties. It promotes the use of resources in ways that enrich all of our lives and makes us stewards of our local, state, and national legacy as Virginians.

What are the community benefits of historic preservation?

Historic resources reflect the story of our community. Historic preservation promotes smart growth, community identity, education, heritage tourism, and economic development.

How does historic preservation promote smart growth?

Falls Church and Virginia are growing, whether we like the results or not. We must shape that growth so that it builds on the character and the assets we've inherited from the past. Adaptive reuse of old buildings helps preserve the character of our community. Put to work, these buildings bring blighted areas back to life, while using existing infrastructure. Adaptive reuse of buildings is environmentally responsible, and reduces urban sprawl.

How does historic preservation promote our community's identity?

Historic resources include mansions and monuments, farmhouses, barns, bridges, residential and commercial districts, archaeological sites, and landscapes. All communities, whether large or small, should recognize and utilize their historic landmarks as assets and building blocks – not obstacles – to progress. Our city's heritage creates benefits for us today, by providing us with opportunities for economic and community development.

How does historic preservation promote education?

Stewardship of historic sites inducts our youngest residents into the city's heritage. These sites teach all of us the lessons of hard work, patriotism, innovation, personal responsibility, and self-sacrifice. Historic places and museums provide hands-on learning experiences for students of all ages.

How does historic preservation promote heritage tourism?

Preserving history pays – on average, visitors to Virginia's historic sites spend over two-and-one-half times as much money in Virginia than do visitors to other tourist attractions. Tourism in Virginia is a \$12 billion a year business and is growing! By attracting tourists, historic sites that are open to the public bring extra business and extra tax dollars to our community and put money in the pockets of local workers.

How does historic preservation promote economic development?

The process of renewing old buildings and sites creates jobs and stimulates construction activity, tax revenue, and prosperity by creating jobs, revitalizing neighborhoods, and strengthening the local tax base. Two programs – the federal historic rehabilitation tax credit and the Virginia Main Street program – have attracted approximately \$400 million in reinvestment in Virginia's historic downtown and building stock, creating over 15,000 jobs. The new state rehabilitation tax credit adds another incentive and stimulates more investments.

To learn more about the direct benefits preserving our history has on you, visit the following Web sites:

City of Falls Church
www.ci.falls-church.va.us

Virginia Department of Historic Resources
www.dhr.state.va.us

National Register of Historic Places
www.cr.nps.gov/nr

National Historic Landmarks Program
www.cr.nps.gov/nhl

National and State Historic Registers
www.dhr.state.va.us/registers/register.htm

National Trust for Historic Preservation
www.nationaltrust.org



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